

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – July 22, 2003

Present: Commissioners
Ron Welton, Executive Director, KNHPAC
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, U.P. Travel and Recreation Association
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service - KEWE
Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Tom Baker, Interim Management Assistant
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation
Kit Murley, Seasonal Worker, Curatorial Division
Jo Urion, Oral Historian

Guests
Phyllis Adams, Baraga County Historical Society
Jim Boyce
Lynn Bjorkman, Consultant
Diana Charles, office of Sen. Carl Levin
Michael Matts, Consultant
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Tom Tikkanen, Main Street Calumet!
Karen TouSignant, Baraga County Historical Society
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

Absent: None

Recording Secretary: Jane Nordberg

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2003 at the KEWE Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Frank Fiala introduced community members and guests present.

Review of Minutes

Due to a lack of a quorum at the April 29, 2003 meeting, the minutes of February 6, 2003 could not be approved. There were no suggested changes to the minutes from the Advisory

Commission meeting held February 6, 2003. Meeting minutes from February 6 were approved. Minutes of the April 29, 2003 meeting were reviewed, but no action was taken to approve them.

Business Reports

Tom Tikkanen reported that the Main Street project is up and running. The office has a temporary location of 104 Fifth Street on the second floor. Their phone number is 337-MAIN (337-6246). This week, the SWOT team comes to town. Laura Partlow from NEDC is coming back to visit. She did the field review on the application. Rob McKay from SHPO will be joining her. Nicholas Kalogeresis, the third team member, is a certified planner with the national Main Street office in Chicago. Tom is unsure if Nick has been here before. There will be a press conference at 4pm on Thursday, possibly at St. Anne's Church, and a public meeting on Thursday at 7pm at the Village offices; Tom expects a strong turnout. This is Main Street's first big visit; the next one is scheduled for September 10, when Calumet is hosting the workshop for the U.P. That workshop is designed to expose other community leaders in the U.P. to the Main Street project and garner more support. Tom is organizing the project as a 501(c)3, and a local attorney is working on that.

Report from the KHNPA Executive Director

Paul asked for an update on the quarterly update of cooperating sites. Ron Welton first wanted to update the Commission on legislation introduced by Rep. Stupak and Sen. Levin. As a cooperating park, one of the things that was hampering KEWE's efforts to grow was the low amount of money that was allocated in enabling legislation to spend on non-federal properties in the Park. House Bill 2411 and concurrently Senate Bill 1338 have been introduced that addresses this issue. It raises the non-federal funding cap from \$3 million to \$25 million, and additionally raises the federal funding cap from \$25 million to \$50 million, and changes the required match on non-federal projects from 1:4 to 1:1. That legislation is in committee and will probably languish there for a while. It is, however, a move in the right direction.

Ron asked Amy Wisti if that was still in committee, and she replied she had no update on that. Paul asked for clarification on the matching ratios. It used to be four private dollars for every federal dollar. Ron said it would now be a dollar-for-dollar ratio. That is a substantial benefit.

Ron indicated many of KEWE's partner organizations are non-profits, and are spread over a four-county area. They are making a contribution to the region's story, and we need to recognize and support that, as well as keeping better track of what is happening at the sites. Ron asked for a motion to seek a membership on behalf of the Commission of those organizations. The primary benefit to Ron would be to keep track of what the organizations are doing but is not on the mailing list of all the organizations. There would be approximately 11 cooperating sites, but there are other partners that are not cooperating sites that we may want to affiliate with, as well. Ron asked for \$1,000 to pursue those memberships. Tom Nemacheck motioned to join any of the non-profit organizations within the boundaries of what KEWE is promoting, with a cap of \$1,000. Paul said there would be a future time where cooperating sites are re-evaluated. This should not influence a decision to endorse a site or not. Tom said it would be just to keep the director informed. Kathryn Eckert indicated the organizations should be sending the Commission

their newsletters anyway. Not all of them have newsletters, and most are volunteer-run. Sue Cone said there were other organizations like the Calumet Theatre and the Fire Museum that are non-profits, but are not listed on the map as cooperating sites. Ron said both of them were, but that an organization should not have to necessarily be a cooperating site to receive the Commission's support and recognition. Motion passed.

Ron highlighted a number of upcoming local events. He promoted the Calumet Theatre's vaudeville show which runs every Tuesday night during the summer. The Copper Range Historical Society was very instrumental in the South Range centennial celebration. There are a lot of people interested in the history of that area. The purchase of Coppertown is still on hold due to site contamination issues and we are addressing that. The Houghton County Historical Society is holding a series of concerts this summer, highlighting their newly-restored pipe organ. The next concert is on Saturday, August 16 and features Dr. Marilyn Mason, chair of the organ department at the University of Michigan. The miners' house exhibit is now open at St. Anne's and is a great exhibit. The Keweenaw County Historical Society has now opened its visitors' center at Central. Ed Yarbrough is back to work at the Quincy Mine. The Fourth Thursday in History event this week, co-sponsored by the MTU Archives and KEWE, will feature an expert in Finnish-American architecture and landscapes of the Midwest, on the Finlandia University campus. The Quincy smelter site work is progressing; the EPA is there doing some on-site clean-up of contaminants.

Ron attended a National Trust for Historic Preservation leadership training in York, Pennsylvania for 8 days in June. Ron's background is park management, not preservation, so he learned a great deal. In addition to the classwork every day, each class is assigned an evening project, and Ron's team was assigned a 1906 prison that had stood vacant for 30 years. The assignment was to find a realistic way to save the building. There were some ingenious solutions. It was impressive to see professionals in the field at work.

On his way back from York, Ron visited Cuyahoga Valley National Park and met with the superintendent. They have received a lot of attention for their successful administration of partnerships. Ron had hoped for a general template plan that worked well for partner organizations, but they said they learned very early on there is no one way; every organization is unique and KEWE will have to tailor its own working relationship with partner organizations.

The Commission's planning workshop will continue this afternoon and tomorrow morning. Michael Matts, the facilitator, had problems flying in due to storms; Ron is still hopeful he will make it.

The loan request from Franklin Township for the archeological study was received and Ron has made payment. Ron sent a card and note on the Commission's behalf to retiring Midwest regional director Bill Schenk. Ron directed the Commission's attention to a report he had previously distributed. The Travel Industry Association of America completed a study that shows 81% of U.S. adults who travelled in the past year visited historically cultural attractions.

Questions asked of the Executive Director:

Bob Langseth asked if we could invite the National Trust to be here next year and use their expertise for our buildings. Ron said next year's site had been selected, but that the training occurs every year at sites around the country. It could certainly be a consideration for a future session. Kathryn said it was in Traverse City a few years ago and it would be a good fit for our area. She suggested to mention it to Michael Matts even though he is no longer with the Trust as he has many contacts there.

Paul asked for the schedule set up with Michael Matts. Ron said it would go from 1-5pm this afternoon and 8am-noon tomorrow morning. [July 22 and 23].

Phyllis Adams asked what the four counties were that were included in the motion passed to obtain Commission memberships. Ron indicated it would be the four-county area of Baraga, Ontonagon, Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

Ed Yarbrough asked where the archeological study of Franklin Township was taking place. Ron said it was a sanitary sewer system and he is not exactly sure where it is going in. Paul said it was a new requirement. It is a federally-funded project. Because the funds are not available yet, a loan was provided to conduct the archeological survey. Paul said if the project got funded three or four months from now, then that would have to be done before any work could be done. With a loan, this archeological work will be behind us. Ron indicated that Franklin Township is a key partner in the overall Park mission because of their ownership of the smelter. Clyde Raasio answered Ed's questions by saying it involved a sewer project that covered Coburntown, Newtown, parts of upper Pewabic across from the Quincy Hill Auto, and down at Menard location.

Report from the KEWE Superintendent

Frank Fiala reported he had been gone for a week and will give a brief report, relying on staff to augment that.

Frank introduced Kit Murley, who will be a junior at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. Kit worked for KEWE last year as a youth leader for YACC program and is interested in a career in the NPS. She is working with Abby Sue Fisher for the summer, with the intention she will become a full-time employee of KEWE after her graduation.

Tom Baker has been temporarily promoted to the management assistant position. That position will be posted in the near future. An architectural historian position will also be posted; that will likely be a term position responsible for the historic structures reports for the Library and the Quincy Pay Office.

Frank is delighted about the Main Street designation of Calumet. It was a great relief for all involved in the project. We have a very qualified and extremely capable Main Street manager to lead the project. There will be a great change in downtown Calumet in the next three years.

KEWE is very committed to the program. Frank thanked all people involved in helping that become a reality.

The Union Building has completed its 90% construction review. That will go out on bid by the end of the month. A company from Lincoln did that and it was a good process. The building was also listed in a Dept. of Interior report in reference to the backlog maintenance project; the Union Building was one of 20 projects mentioned.

The exterior is almost completed on the headquarters. There are some landscaping issues; Frank asked Steve DeLong to address those later. Planning funds were received for the interior rehabilitation project. That program will be turned over to the Historic Preservation Training Center. Fritz Rushlow will be managing that.

Coppertown is on hold. The test holes identified local contamination, not broad-based. This will strengthen our position for a legislative change and hopefully there will be a bill to that effect in the near future. The Conservation Fund may be interested in the purchase of Coppertown and we could use that as a holding body, since there is already acquisition money in account. There is precedent for that.

The Christman Company gave their presentation to Franklin Township. Steve will give an update on that later.

Two additional high school students were hired for the Youth Conservation Corps program. This brings the total to seven with a work leader. They have accomplished a great deal. That program ends on August 8.

The staff retreat was held and was a positive experience. The results and organizational changes are in the process of being documented.

The Harper's Ferry Center was here the week of July 23. They are rewriting the Unigrid brochure. Kathleen Harter will expand on that later.

Some people were here for a fire management program, which was required as KEWE is a landowner. That is progressing; Frank expects a public meeting in the near future.

While at the regional office, Frank met with the new regional director, Ernest Quintana. He will be visiting the week of August 25.

Frank thanked Tom Baker and Kathleen Harter for putting out the new Ingot about three weeks ago, and staff for reviewing it. That is funded currently through the Isle Royale Natural History Association in lieu of rent for office space. The Commission may be asked to fund that in the future.

Frank asked Abby Sue Fisher for additional comments. Abby Sue and her staff have been making progress in their collection across the street in the Library Building. They are updating their scope of collections statement and are looking at educational and interpretive programming.

They have developed a museum collection advisory committee, both in-house and an ad hoc committee to help evaluate collections acquired through salvage and potential new acquisitions. The oral history program continues; Jo Urion has completed 70 interviews and the transcriptions are in progress. Kit has been helpful in housekeeping and pest management. A space-saver unit will be installed in the basement and that will help maximize storage. Five walls were removed in the process. Abby Sue and other staff will be involved in giving presentations for Heritage Days.

Kathleen said that Frank had mentioned the Uniguide, the Park brochure with the black band across the top. Harper's Ferry does one of those for every Park Service unit. KEWE was on their waiting list and finally came up to the top. It is a two-year process for the development of the guide. They do one site visit to the Park. In a little over two days, they visited almost all the cooperating sites and got an in-depth tour of the Calumet and Quincy units. They will now go back and start the design of the Uniguide. Also, there is an in-depth visitor survey project that the Park has been awarded. That is a national project; parks submit a proposal and are selected. About two weeks next summer, there will be a team who will go to Park sites and do visitor surveys. We will start work on that this fall. A scope of sales committee has been formed in conjunction with the Isle Royale Natural History Association to come up with sales items and putting them on-line. Kathleen has been to all cooperating sites except one, providing interpretive feedback for people on-site. Interpretive exhibits are also in progress for the Union Building windows that will talk about the rehabilitation of the building.

Bob thanked Kathleen for visiting the cooperating sites and asked for feedback. Kathleen said Keweenaw County Historical Society has done a great job with their interpretive exhibits. Others need more work but all are very willing. They want assistance in different degrees. Kathleen, Tom, and Steve have been evaluating what the sites have, what areas they are weak in, and determining how KEWE can offer different services to help them.

Steve gave an update on landscape changes. They are working with the Youth Conservation crew in removing non-historic vegetation from around the foundation of the Library Building, they will be doing some work to restore the patchy areas of the lawn around the KEWE headquarters building. They are working with the Gundlach shelter to share a dumpster. Christman Corporation is still looking at the smelter; their study will continue through late summer or early fall regarding the prospects there for a private partnership effort. Amy Keranen, a local representative for the Michigan DEQ, has been working with the Township to remove hazardous materials inside the buildings such as asbestos pipe-wrap and containers that have questionable contents. The YCC has been instrumental in clearing brush and today are working with the Keweenaw Kernewek in cleaning up the Schoolcraft Cemetery. Steve has just begun working with Kathleen, Tom, and Ron on signage concepts for cooperating sites. The landscaping of the Union Building is requiring some effort but is 90% complete. Visitors from the regional office will be here next month to work on a cultural landscape inventory and a classified structures inventory.

Kathryn asked about the survey area boundaries for the classified structures inventory. Steve said only Park-owned structures would be included. Bob asked about signage for the Park

boundaries. Steve said that has not been considered in depth yet, but will be discussed further in the future. Frank said there is funding in FY 04 for a boundary study.

Tom Baker is busy with management assistant duties and is still working with interpretation and technology issues. He went to Denver last week by invitation of the geological resources division to attend a workshop on making geological evaluation studies usable and readable for non-geologist Park personnel and the public. According to a legislative mandate, every park needs geological mapping, which is useless without interpretation.

Kathryn asked if there were funds to execute the federal mandate for mapping. Tom said there was five-year funding at \$1.5 million per year for 275 parks. This is the third year of the project and only nine reports have been produced, so they are changing their approach. A lot of mapping comes from USGS. KEWE's mapping has not yet been done.

Paul acknowledged Lynn Bjorkman in the audience. He asked Abby Sue or Frank about the Oddfellows artifacts stored in the warehouse; should that have been a job for the YCC? Abby Sue said it was not too late. Paul said he would also like to see interpretive signs in the Township historic business district.

Jane Nordberg asked the difference between a Unigrid brochure and a Uniguide. Kathleen said the Uniguide is a brochure that Tom and others worked on earlier. That came out in January. Steve added that Uniguide is the name for a signage program that has been developed by the NPS. The Unigrid is the Park brochure.

Reports from the Commissioners

Clyde noted that the YCC have done a great job cleaning up around the mining office. He is concerned about a wood water pipe that he and Geri Larsen had removed from the woods and put behind the office. It was not trash and Clyde is afraid that is now gone. Frank said he would check on it. Clyde is pleased to see the antenna is gone from the Quincy shafthouse. A new tower was constructed to the east of there, outside the district. Ed Yarbrough said it was on Mont Ripley. Clyde asked if there were plans to clear brush around foundations in the Quincy unit next to US41 and No. 2 road, or the area on the north side of U.S.41 going towards the Frenchtown Road. Steve says they are trying to balance a workload so the crew gets a variety of different types of work. There are a number of sites that are being recognized for clean-up.

Sue said the bricks are going in on Pine Street, the sidewalks are done, sidewalks are almost completed on Sixth Street, and they will be starting the paving and concrete intersection soon. Heritage Days will be in August; meetings are scheduled for Wednesday mornings at the Evergreen; Tom Baker has been going to those meetings. The new visitor's center at Central is complete and is a wonderful facility. Sue thanked Ed for his work on the walking tour and the signage.

Larry Lankton remarked on cooperating sites and the Park's recognition of what it wants to do to fill a need in the community. With the new collections group that is getting going, there could be groups like St. Anne's who collect artifacts but would not be able to afford climate control or a

professional curator. Is the Park only going to curate things it owns outright, or would it help to preserve things of other organizations? Abby Sue is putting together a site assessment package together for the cooperating sites. She would do free site assessments for those organizations who asked. She and Kathleen would work together; Abby Sue looking at artifacts, exhibits and storage, with Kathleen coming from an interpretive and historian angle. We don't want to be collecting the same things. There is a great potential for us to help the sites with technical assistance and curation, but there are only so many people to go around. Each site needs to have their scope and theme well-defined before we can progress with them.

Kathryn added the importance of cooperation and partnerships in record collection with the MTU Archives. Abby Sue said they were working together to reduce duplication and complement each other.

Larry said all the sites needed a collections policy. Currently, St. Anne's has no facility for storing artifacts but would be willing in the future to accept them if they knew there was a storage site with trained personnel nearby. Responding to Kathryn's statement, there are two organizations at MTU that are key to KEWE's mission: the Department of Social Sciences' industrial archeology program, and the MTU Archives. We assume that they are doing fine and will be there all the time. That is not always the case. There are studies that need to be done and other financial assistance that can be offered. Neither of those organizations are at the heart of the University's mission. The Archives is managed by a Library Director who has the Library's interests at heart, not necessarily the Archives'. KEWE should be interested in the Archives. Social Sciences is not top dog because it's not an engineering department. The University is suffering financially. Social Sciences has lost one archeological position and will lose two secretaries and there is a lot of work that can't be done due to finances. The Archives will be reducing its hours due to staffing shortages. We need to think about not duplicating efforts and making sure we are maximizing what MTU can contribute to KEWE, and vice versa. The Archives has the single most important body of literature and collections and it always will have, and everyone will suffer if the Archives is underfunded and isn't open.

Sue said Coppertown accepts artifacts and collections from organizations that can't manage them.

Frank asked Larry to comment on the historic resource study. Larry is finishing chapter 12 and will hopefully have the draft finished by August 31. That is a good example of cooperation, but he is worried about the future. The department was on the brink of getting a cultural resources management PhD program and it was pulled.

At 10:20, Paul called a ten-minute recess. The meeting resumed at 10:33.

Tom Tikkanen brought Dixie Franklin, a travel writer, up for a visit. He thanked John Rosemurgy and Kathleen for giving her a great tour of the area. Franklin is the upcoming president of the Midwest Travel Writers. There are good things happening with publicity but on a negative note, KEWE is not recognized by the State of Michigan. It's a national park and they should know about us, but it is not happening. In December, the Michigan Travel Commission met and Tom had a report from that meeting. The Commission is a group of governor appointees

that oversees the travel and promotional agencies of the state. The report set the direction where the promotional efforts of the state will go. There were five travel commissioners there, four vendors, and seven staff people who work for Travel Michigan. The study, "Perspectives on the Michigan Travel Experience," indicates no focus on telling the mining history in the promotion of the state.

Frank said Dr. Anderson will be here next month. Tom said Dr. Anderson was not invited to the meeting. Frank said they were about to launch a significant maritime heritage program which includes all national parks in the Upper Peninsula, and he knows we are here.

Kathryn will write Liz Boyd, the governor's press secretary, and Sandra Clarke. Tom will provide Frank a copy of the report. Ron will contact the director of Travel Michigan.

Kathryn wanted to encourage an application for a scenic heritage route designation for U.S. 41. Federal funds are available to prepare an application under Ron's supervision. Paul said it was already in process. Jim Stingle from Western U.P. Planning is familiar with it.

Bob said St. Anne's is working with Ron on a rural development proposal. Ron is taking Bob's place tomorrow place as speaker at the Laurium Village Hall, and on Thursday night Bob is presenting an overview of Copper Country ghost towns at Fort Wilkins.

Paul had promised Larry he would not give a report, and was true to his word. He asked the Commission to stay after the meeting to discuss some personnel matters with Frank.

Reports from Legislative Officers

Amy Wisti indicated legislative aide Chris Bouma is going back into the private sector. She will advise when a new aide is in place. Chris will be there through the end of the month. Leslie, the press person, is very familiar with the Park and would be a good contact in Chris' absence.

Diana Charles reported the Senator was here over the weekend and did a tour of Isle Royale, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Pictured Rocks and other Upper Peninsula sites.

Sue asked Paul if Matt Johnson gets notices of the meetings. Ron said he sends them.

Public Comments

Erik Nordberg reported the Archives will lose a third of its staffing due to budget cuts. Since 1991, the MTU Library has lost 12 positions, or a third of its staff. Erik encouraged people to write letters to the President and the Provost in support of the Archives. Starting on August 4, the Archives will be open from 1-5pm Monday through Friday. Ironically, the groundbreaking has occurred on a new building which will offer the Archives more space. Hopefully, next summer, after the move is complete, the hours will be augmented, but additional staffing would be needed to bring the hours back to a normal eight-hour day. Michigan Tech is not the Park's problem, but the collections that have been brought together and are available, are important to the Park's mission and the Archives needs to have the Park's support.

Ed Yarbrough noted the timbers from the blacksmithing shop have come back from the Forest Products Lab in Madison. They plan to access the remaining parts on-site. A hardhat requirement has been added to the 1918 hoist house tour. The trailer underground has been modified with sheet metal. Handicap accessibility is also underway. Steve has provided drawings for replacing steps with a ramp at the bottom and top of the tram road. The purchase of the #8 shaft near Paavola Road is still progressing. Ed is anxious to work with Kathleen on exhibits for the 1894 hoist house. A site that is largely overlooked but significant is between the driveway of the hoist house and old Pewabic Road. There are a lot of foundations there and a historic water pipe that should be salvaged. Charlie Madsen has been helping out with a crew to address that. Tomorrow, Ed is meeting with Brian Hoduski to look at Quincy's contributions to the cataloging project. The Hoist Association has a new website that should be on-line within the week. Visitation numbers for June were down 4.7% admission but merchandise sales were the same. July seems to be more like July of last year.

Tom Nemacheck asked if the operating hours were the same as last year. Ed said yes, and mentioned that the first half of June last year had longer hours than this year. That was not found to be profitable.

Paul recognized Michael Matts, who recently arrived to the meeting. He said it was great to be visiting and is looking forward to working with the Park staff.

Paul recognized Phyllis Adams and Karen TouSignant, who said the meeting was very interesting and well-organized.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting date is October 14, 2003. [This date was later amended to October 28, 2003.]